



Boundaries Settled

The exact spot where Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia meet is not easy to see on the ridge line below. Nor was it easy to determine.

In 1665 Great Britain's King Charles II declared his Virginia colony was to be separated from his Carolina colony by a line drawn at latitude $36^{\circ} 30'$. Surveyors started at the Atlantic Ocean in 1728 to run the line westward to the Mississippi. Decades of boundary disputes followed, first between Virginia and North Carolina. Later Tennessee and Kentucky joined the fray. The most rugged segment of the old Carolina-Virginia boundary—here in the Cumberland Mountains—was not finally resolved until 1803.

Before 1792 Kentucky was the westernmost county of Virginia. The Cumberland ridge top was chosen as the new state line by the Kentucky and Virginia boundary commissioners in 1798.



Until 1790 Tennessee was part of North Carolina. Commissioners from Virginia and Tennessee set the final line here on "White Top Mountain" in December 1803.



Here, you are in Virginia.



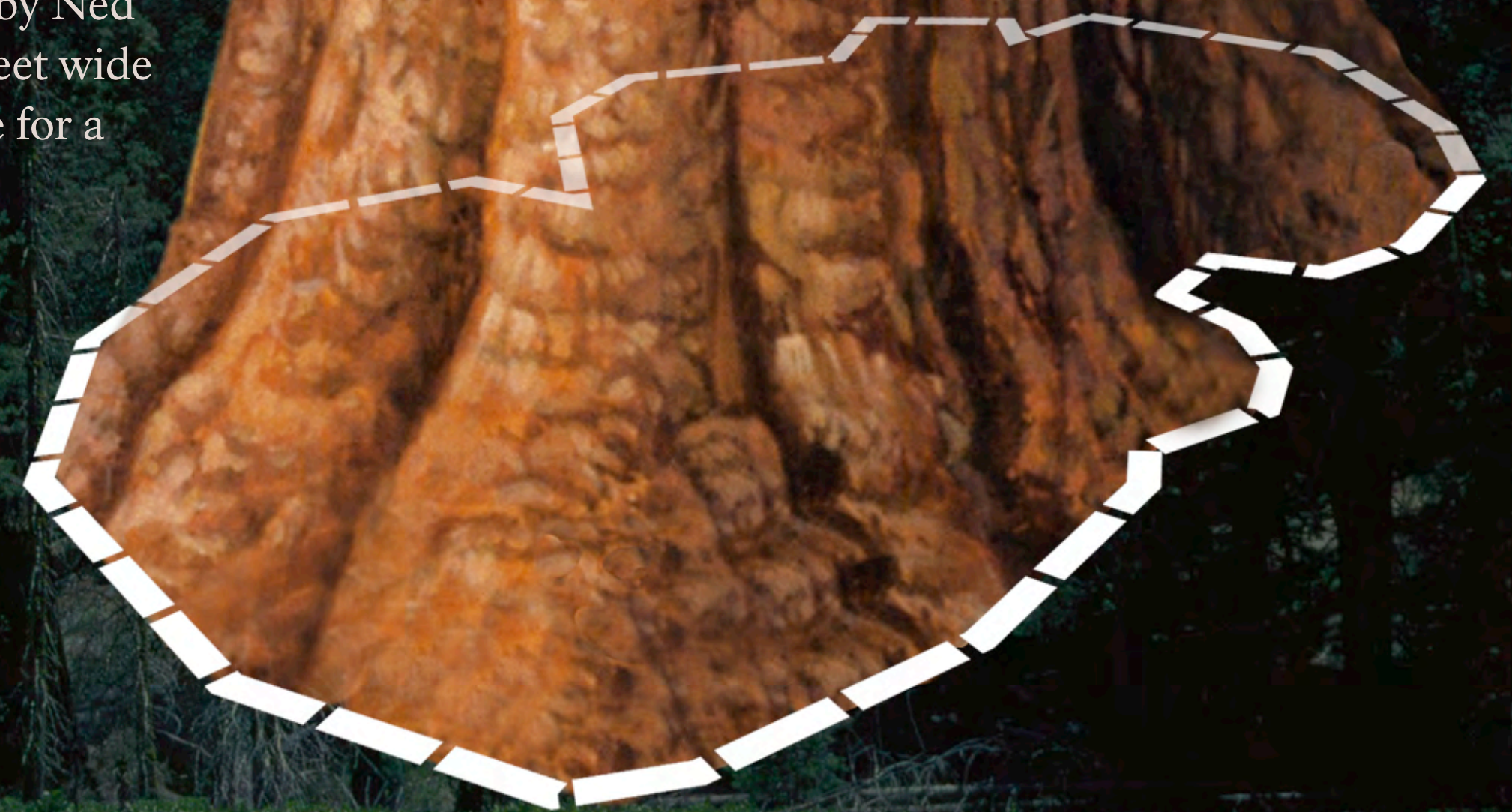
A Giant's Footprint

The stones in the pavement behind you simulate the “footprint” of Ed by Ned, the twin sequoia trees growing in front of you. The footprint gives an idea of the area on which mature sequoia trees stand. If it seems large, consider the enormous size of the trees balanced upon that spot.



Ed by Ned—the nickname given by John and James Jordan in 1906—are two individual trees that grew so close together their bases joined.

The combined bases of Ed by Ned spread 34 feet long and 25 feet wide (10.3m x 7.6m)—a great size for a swimming pool.





A Frontier Company

Belle Vue Sheep Farm was just one of many business ventures for the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC)—Canada's oldest and largest corporation. Started as a fur trading business, HBC was instrumental in Canada's early exploration and establishment as a nation. On May 2, 1670, England's Charles II gave HBC rights over all Indian trade throughout the territory with rivers flowing into Hudson Bay.

HBC's fur business flourished as the company built a network of frontier trading posts. When the fur trade declined, the company shifted to mercantile trade, selling goods to Canadian settlers. The company gained a foothold in the Pacific Northwest when it bought out its competitor, the North West Company, in 1821. Soon HBC began expanding its agricultural businesses to support colonists, which led to ventures like Belle Vue Sheep Farm.



HBC's trade domain 1821

San Juan Island



HBC's original domain

Known as Rupert's Land, named for the company's first director, HBC controlled all the outlined land surrounding Hudson Bay. The land was granted to the company by King Charles II in 1670.

Hudson's Bay Company, located in Toronto, Ontario, is Canada's largest general merchandise retailer. In 2008 HBC was sold to the U.S. firm NRDC Equity Partners.



OLYMPIC MOUNTAINS

Fort Victoria

HBC British Columbia Headquarters



VANCOUVER
ISLAND



Belle Vue Sheep Farm

You Are Here

SAN JUAN ISLAND

Following the 1846 Oregon Treaty, Great Britain persuaded HBC to establish a colony on Vancouver Island so Britain would have a presence in the region. HBC's Chief Factor James Douglas became the

new colony's governor in 1851. To strengthen Britain's and HBC's territorial claim to San Juan Island, Douglas sent Charles Griffin to the island in 1853 to develop a permanent sheep farm.



A Maze of Mountains

The Cumberland Mountains on which you stand are only one link in a great chain of ridges and valleys that stretch 900 miles from New England to Alabama. The Appalachian wilderness was a 150-mile-wide wall to settlers looking west in the late 1700s.

Nature provided only three good routes for a mass migration through the maze: the Mohawk valley in upstate New York, the Potomac’s passage that linked the Chesapeake to the Ohio valley, and the Gap you see below. For some 300,000 pioneers from the mid-Atlantic and southern states, this was the best road west.

